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SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 6, 1954

Arose at six this morning to go with Bob Bowie to meet Jean Monnet, due to arrive on the Frankfurt train which was almost an hour late. Bob and I had breakfast near the station.

I went to see Jean at his hotel, then lunched with E. at the Maison de France, whence I departed for another fruitless session of irreconcilable arguments.

Bill Tyler and I sit cheek by jowl. His never-exhausted fund of stories and apposite comments is a relief in these now-boring debates. I asked him today why he always reversed the place card on which his name is printed in ink. He answered it was because of what had happened to the French Ambassadress to Switzerland during the last war. Being on a train journey, she went to the ladies' room. Suspicious of the seat's cleanliness, she laid a newspaper on it. At a frontier the security guards searched the passengers. The duty of stripping and examining the females devolved upon a husky, matter-of-fact policewoman. When she scrutinized the naked and indignant ambassadress she spent several minutes rapt in concentration on her bottom. Thereafter a photographer entered and took pictures of the diplomat's wife's behind from every angle. She was then asked to explain in detail the meaning and reason for the secret messages imprinted on her.

Molotov threw in, after we had all consumed some vodka and cakes, a resolution to cancel the obligations of the two German states for reparations, occupation costs, and post-war allied expenditures.

This was given short shrift.

Saw some wonderful black and white Rediger engravings (Augsburg, about 1734) of the Spanish riding school evolutions in a shop window today at about $50 apiece.

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It had been agreed there would be a closed session on Monday. Eden proposed the Austrians be invited here and item 3 be opened Tuesday. Molotov objected. The meeting was adjourned.

E. and I dined tonight at the François-Poncets' with the Bidaults, Ambassador Joxe and Jean Monnet. I talked to Bidault about Van Zeeland's remark to his Senate the other day which has been widely publicized. While the Foreign Ministers in Berlin were saying that a united Germany would not be bound by the prior engagements of its separate governments, Van Zeeland was offering the opposite construction of the terms of the Paris treaty. The argument that a united Germany would be free, if it chose to do so, to withdraw its troops from the European army and constitute a national army whilst the other signataries would be bound for fifty years is being widely used by opponents of EDC.

When Van Zeeland's attention was called to the statements made here he hedged his earlier interpretation of the matter and said he would seek further light from Bidault. Meanwhile de Staercke has been in touch with Tommy and myself.

I am consulting de Staercke as to whether it might be useful for me to go to Brussels, see Van Zeeland and Spaak, and tell them just what has been going on here. Foster approves this and told me to clear it with Bidault, who thought it a good idea. He and Foster think that although de jure a united Germany could repudiate the EDC, de facto it would be committed.

Georges, Jean and I talked over the Coal and Steel Community, then moved on to EDC and EPC. Bidault says Laniel is working hard to line up votes for EDC and after the Berlin Conference is over they ~~intend to submit the treaty as soon~~ as possible to the Parliament for a vote. He feels it will cause a bitter debate with the outcome uncertain but likely to be in its favor. ~~He stated categorically~~ that he would do nothing with the Von Brentano draft of an EPC treaty and on this

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subject he was a Minimalist. Jean suggested the thing to do at this juncture was to concentrate on securing agreement for a democratic control over CSC and EDC through the constitution of a peoples' assembly, elected directly by the appropriate European voters. He thought this would meet Mollet's requirements. Bidault was interested and promised to consider this seriously.

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